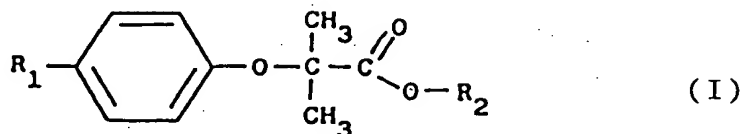


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

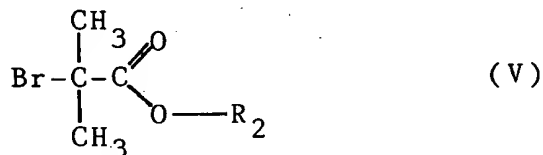
1. A method for the preparation of a substance selected from the group comprising the fibrates corresponding to the general formula:



PS H

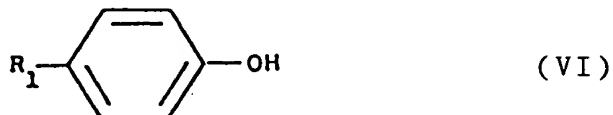
H 14

in which  $\text{R}_1$  represents especially a halogen atom (in particular F, Cl or Br, the preferred halogen atom being Cl) or an acetyl, (4-chlorophenyl)hydroxymethyl, 4-chlorobenzoyl or 2-(4-chlorobenzamido)ethyl group and  $\text{R}_2$  represents a  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_4$  alkyl group in which the hydrocarbon chain is linear or branched, which comprises reacting an excess, relative to the stoichiometric conditions, of an alkyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate of the formula:



PS H

in which  $\text{R}_2$  is defined as indicated above, with a substituted phenol of the formula:



PS H

in which  $\text{R}_1$  is defined as indicated above, in the absence of a solvent and in the presence of an excess of

H  $K_2CO_3$ , relative to the stoichiometric conditions, at a temperature greater than or equal to  $120^\circ C$ , for at least 2 h.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the resulting fibrate is isolated from the reaction medium by precipitation, extraction or distillation.

H 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction medium containing the resulting fibrate is treated with a strong acid to neutralize the excess  $K_2CO_3$ , and the fibrate is then isolated from the reaction medium by precipitation, extraction or distillation.

H 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein 1 mol of VI is reacted with about 1.7 to about 2.3 mol of V in the presence of about 0.8 to about 1.8 mol of  $K_2CO_3$ , at a temperature of  $120$  to  $160^\circ C$ , for 3 to 6 hours.

H 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein 1 mol of VI is reacted with about 2 mol of V in the presence of about 1 mol of  $K_2CO_3$ , at a temperature of  $140$  to  $145^\circ C$ .

H 6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the neutralization of the excess  $K_2CO_3$  is carried out with sulfuric acid at a temperature not exceeding  $120^\circ C$  and preferably of the order of  $100^\circ C$ .

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein:

P<sub>1</sub> C 2<sup>d</sup> 1<sup>d</sup>) about one mol of VI is reacted with about 1.7 to about 2.3 mol of V (preferably about 2 mol of V) in the absence of a solvent and in the presence of about 0.8 to about 1.8 mol of  $K_2CO_3$  (preferably about 1 mol of  $K_2CO_3$ ), at a temperature of  $120^\circ C$  to  $160^\circ C$  (preferably at a temperature of  $140^\circ C$  to  $145^\circ C$ ), for at least 2 hours (preferably for 3 to 6 hours),

P<sub>1</sub> C 2<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>) the excess  $K_2CO_3$  is neutralized with a strong acid at a temperature below  $120^\circ C$ , and

P<sub>1</sub> C 2<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>) the fibrate is isolated from the reaction medium by precipitation at a temperature below  $60^\circ C$ , or by extraction or distillation.

P 14  
H  
L  
P  
H  
P  
R  
P  
H  
H 14

8. The method according to claim 1 for the preparation of fenofibrate, wherein:

(a) about 1 mol of VI in which  $R_1$  is the 4-chlorobenzoyl group is reacted with about 2 mol of V in which  $R_2$  is the isopropyl group, in the absence of a solvent and in the presence of about 1 mol of  $K_2CO_3$ , at a temperature of about 140°C to about 145°C, for about 5 hours,

(b) after the addition of aqueous isopropanol to the resulting reaction medium, the excess  $K_2CO_3$  is neutralized with sulfuric acid at a temperature of the order of 100°C,

(c) the resulting reaction medium is cooled to a temperature of between 15 and 25°C and the precipitate of fenofibrate is collected by filtration,

(d) the precipitate filtered off in this way is washed with sodium hydroxide followed by water, and then

(e) the fenofibrate is recrystallized from aqueous isopropanol.

9. The method of preparation according to claim 1 for the synthesis of a fibrate of the formula I in which  $R_2 = H$ , wherein the corresponding ester is prepared, according to the method of claim 1, by reacting the substituted phenol VI with an alkyl 2-bromo-2-methylpropanoate of the formula V in which  $R_2$  is a  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl group, in the absence of a solvent, and the resulting ester is then saponified.

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end